Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I asked that question to put some supplementary question. Now, I shall postpone it.

Jaggery tapping.

127. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Hon'ble Member for Excise be pleased to inform the number of cocoanut trees palmyras and sagos licensed in the State this year for tapping jaggery toddy and fermented toddy (giving separate figures)?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—

	Cocoanut.	*Palmyra*	*Sago.*
For jaggery toddy	6,015	8,093	8,460.
For fermented toddy	61,872	8,239	4,453.

(Till the end of Edavam 1101.)

128. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state that, in spite of the representations made to the Government by the non-official Members of the Legislative Council in the budget and legislative sessions that the present system of enforcing a license fee for tapping for jaggery manufacture should be abolished, and that the system now prevailing in the Madras Presidency should be followed, the Government will continue the present system in the ensuing year?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The Excise Committee recently constituted will enquire into the advisability of abolishing the license fee, and the Government will examine their recommendations, if any, in the matter. Till then the present system will have to be continued.

Licenses to new tappers.

129. Mr. Chakko Cheruvathur.— Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) in how many cases of new tappers has the department over-ruled the objections of the Aminadars and granted licenses against their recommendations to the contrary, during the last 3 years, and what were the reasons for the same;

(b) has the Government or the department made any inquiries as to the real cause underlying their objections in the above cases;

(c) if so, has it called for any explanations from the officers concerned, and what steps have been taken by the Government to regulate their conduct in future? If not, why not?

(d) If not, will the Government be pleased to make immediate inquiries and take the necessary steps to prevent such conduct in future and inform this House the result of the inquiry and the steps taken?

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Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—(a) Accurate information is not available, as jaggery applications were not registered hitherto.

The information gathered from the available records is that there were no cases where the objections had to be over-ruled.

No answer is required in view of the reply to (a).

Mr. Chakko Cheruvathur.—Answer to question (a). I want to know how the Government came to the conclusion. I also want to know what are the available records.

President.—He simply says that there is no register.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The petitions were not registered.

130. Mr. Chakko Cheruvathur.—(a) Is it a fact that the Excise Department is very pessimistic in granting license to new tappers?

(b) How many petitions were there from new tappers for licenses for tapping (i) jaggery, (ii) toddy, during the years 1100 and 1101? How many of each sort were granted licenses?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar —(a) No.

(b) There were 107 and 170 petitions for licenses for jaggery in 1100 and 1101 (tili Meenam) respectively. Licenses were granted to 17 in 1100 and 128 persons in 1101. The figures are only approximate, as no special registers are maintained in the case of new tappers.

The information regarding licenses for fermented toddy is not available, as these licenses are issued in the names of shop-licensees on their applications.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvathur.—I want to know whether the department does not scrutinise whether there are new tappers or not, while issuing licenses for fermented toddy.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—In the case of fermented toddy, tapping licenses are supplied to shop renters on their application. The tappers are employed by the renters, and we have no control over those tappers.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvathur.—There is a feeling among the public that licenses are issued only to hereditary families. If fresh people apply for licenses, it is very difficult to get them. In the case of jaggery tappers, there were 107 applications in 1100, but only 17 were granted, and all the others were rejected.

President.—The information I gather from what is stated is this. So far as fermented toddy is concerned, it is a matter of immediate concern for the renter. He wants certain licenses to be issued for tapping, and they are issued. It is not the business of the department to enquire whether the tappers engaged by them are new or old. So far as jaggery tapping is

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concerned, it stands on a different footing. In this case all applications are made individually by the tappers concerned so that each man's case is taken into consideration. Whether the application should be granted or not is left to the discretion of the Superintendent.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvathur.—In the case of fermented toddy tappers, I want to know whether the department scrutinises whether they are old tappers or new tappers.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—We cannot compel renters to take in any particular tapper, much less new tappers.

President.—Do you say that you have inquired whether the tappers are new or old?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—No, Sir.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvathur.—When a tapper under license commits malpractice, is the licensee taken to task for it?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Yes.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvathur. —I hope then that the department scrutinises whether a fermented toddy tapper is a convicted man or not.

President.—On the representation made by the fermented toddy renter, the department issues licenses. But the moment questionable conduct comes to the notice of the department, action will be taken. In the first instance, licenses are issued as prayed for by the renter.

The deputation of the tappers of the Talappalli Taluk.

131. Mr. Chakko Cheruvathur.—(a) Did a deputation of tappers from the Talappalli Taluk wait upon the Superintendent of Excise in his Head Office at Ernakulam in last Kanni with a petition?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to lay a copy of that petition on the table?

(c) What is the final decision of the Government upon that petition?

(d) Is there any basis for the Superintendent's statement before this House that the Member for Vadakkancheri appeared in his capacity as Vakil with that deputation?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—(a) No.

(b), (c) and (d). No answer is required in view of the reply to part (a).

Mr. Chakko Cheruvathur.—Was there any deputation this year?

President.—Was there a deputation in 1101?

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